

BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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PROPOSED EMIGRANT MINE PROJECT OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED

An open house will be held Wednesday, June 16th, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada, to discuss the proposed Plan of Operations for the Newmont Mining Corporation's proposed Emigrant Project in Elko County, Nevada.

The proposed Emigrant Mine would be located about ten miles south of Carlin, Nevada, and would include developing and operating an open pit mine; constructing a waste rock disposal facility, storing oxide waste in mined out areas of the pit; developing an oxide heap leach pad; constructing ancillary facilities; temporarily rerouting intermittent stream and flows in the pit area; and concurrent reclamation. Proposed mining operations would last for approximately 9 years through the year 2013. About 1172 acres of public land and 260 acres of private land would be disturbed.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to analyze impacts of the proposed mining operations. The issues expected to be analyzed in the EIS include potential impacts to wildlife and cultural resources; the potential for waste rock, heap leach, and pit walls to produce acid rock drainage or heavy metals; and diversion of an unnamed drainage. Cumulative impacts will also be addressed. In addition, the following resources will be analyzed: geology and minerals, Native American religious concerns, air quality, paleontology, lands and realty, fisheries and aquatic resources, range management, vegetation, soils, visual resources, recreation and wilderness, weeds, social and economic values, environmental justice, and threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive resources.

A range of alternatives (including, but not limited to, alternative reclamation measures and the no-action alternative) will be developed to address the issues. Mitigating measures will be considered to minimize environmental impacts and to assure the proposed action does not result in undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands.

The purpose of the open house is to give the public an opportunity to get more information about the proposed project and to voice any issues and concerns they want analyzed in the EIS. Federal, state and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by BLM's decision on the proposed Emigrant Plan of Operations are invited to participate in the scoping process.

For questions or more information about the project, please contact Tom Schmidt by phone - (775) 753-0200, by email – Tom_Schmidt@nv.blm.gov, or by mail - 3900 Idaho St., Elko, NV, 89801.

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